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TO: Deputy Director (Intelligence)

SUBJECT: Status of Li Li-san

According to a recent press or radio account, Li Li-san, a former secretary-general of the Chinese Communist Party who is popularly regarded as the CCP leader most uncritically subservient to the USSR, accompanied Chou En-lai in his talks with Ho Chi Minh on 3-5 July. This report is believed to be false, as Li was listed by the official New China News Agency among the many officials welcoming Chou back to Peiping.

Li was expelled from the CCP's politburo in 1930 as a scapegoat for the failure of the Comintern line, which then advocated armed attacks on major cities. He lived in Moscow until 1945, when he returned to China. Although he was re-elected to the CCP's central committee in 1945, there is no evidence that he has been among the party's top leadership since his return. In fact, his past policies are frequently denounced in official Communist publications.

Currently Li is minister of labor in the Peiping regime and a member of the Central People's Government Council and Government Administration Council. Except for a period of several months immediately following the May 1953 trade union congress, when he was not re-elected vice chairman of the trade union organization, Li has appeared fairly regularly at government meetings and at other occasions which would require his presence.

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